

Venture Café x City of Phoenix Office of Innovation Innovate PHX Challenge | RECAP

June 27, 2024 at Venture Café Phoenix

Addressing urban challenges through innovative solutions.

Event Overview

The Office of Innovation collaborates with Venture Café Phoenix to organize biannual Innovate PHX Challenge hackathons where participants from diverse backgrounds work in teams to address top City priorities. The teams then pitch their innovative solutions to a panel of judges for a chance to win a cash prize and potentially partner with the City to prototype ideas.

Event Turnout



150
Attendees



34
Participants



6
Teams

CHALLENGE

This hackathon's challenge was to **expand affordable housing** with a focus on **design and sustainability, reduced production costs, and speed to market**. Participants were asked to explore uses for vacant and underused lots, as well as new housing ideas, while adapting to our unique climate challenges.

PITCHES

Teams of residents, community leaders, researchers, technologists, and others collaborated for 6 hours to present innovative solutions for affordable housing. The finalized pitches included suggestions for, among others, modernized zoning codes to reduce obstacles for developers, ArcGIS mapping software to connect affordable housing with public transportation, and sustainable prefabrication using Ponderosa Pine trees from Northern AZ.

Topics Covered



Sustainable
Materials



Zoning
Reform



User-Friendly
Software



Cross-Sector
Collaboration

WINNERS

1

Team Four

\$ \$3,500

Promote the use of carbon-sequestering Magnesium Oxide Structural Insulated Panels (SIPs) for increased efficiency and sustainability in multi-family home construction.

2

Team Five

\$ \$1,500

Create a marketplace that connects developers to market opportunities, driving rapid development through pre-approved templates and market incentives that reduce barriers to construction.

